

Harrington Park Recreation Committee
Minutes
Wednesday, January 16, 2019

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:03PM.

Chairman's Announcement

In compliance with Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, adequate notice of the scheduled meeting was made. It is posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Center. Copies have been mailed to the BERGEN RECORD, SUBURBANITE, and THE NORTHERN VALLEY PRESS. A copy has been filed with the Borough Clerk, and copies have been mailed to individuals requesting the same.

2. ROLL CALL

COMMISSION Members	PRESENT	ABSENT
Charles DeGruccio (Chairman)	X	
Paul Baly (Vice Chairman)		X
Lynne Cappelmann	X	
Thomas Donnelly	X	
Patrick (Kelly) Kramer	X	

ALSO PRESENT:

Joon Chung, Council Liaison

Carolyn Lee, Secretary

3. ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS OF OFFICE

Ashley Plescia and Lara Toomin was sworn in. The members welcomed them to the Recreation Commission.

4. ROLL CALL – 2019 BOARD MEMBERS

COMMISSION Members	PRESENT	ABSENT
Charles DeGruccio	X	
Paul Baly		X
Lynne Cappelmann	X	
Thomas Donnelly	X	
Patrick (Kelly) Kramer	X	
Ashely Plescia	X	
Lara Toomin	X	

ALSO PRESENT:

Joon Chung, Council Liaison

Carolyn Lee, Secretary

5. BOARD NOMINATIONS

Tom nominated Charles Degruccio for Chairman.

Motion: Tom Second: Kelly

All in favor said "Aye". None opposed.

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Tom nominated Paul Baly for Vice Chairman.

Motion: Tom Second: Lynne

All in favor said "Aye". None opposed.

6. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

HP Rec Sports – Sports Commissioners

Baseball and softball are the sports that will be starting registration soon and it would be nice to have the commissioners attend the meeting. Joe Simeone, the treasurer for basketball, attended.

The members explained how Rec sports works. Each recreation sport has a commissioner who organizes volunteers, registration and expenses. The sports request field/gym time from Recreation Commission who may need to co-ordinate with the school in some cases. In some cases the sport is a town sport and is covered through the Joint Insurance Fund (JIF) or is a quasi which is also covered by the JIF. Soccer insurance is through AYSO.

There was a discussion about the history of Recreation in Harrington Park. There were questions why each of the sports are separate entities. In 1999, HP sports registration was at borough hall.

Towns in the area have declining volunteers like HP and residents choose private clubs or programs instead of Rec programs. The success recreation programs in other towns are the ones that hire/sub contract someone to organize their programs from registration, entering teams, schedules, etc.

Tonight's meeting is the beginning of this process. The goal is to make it easier for the residents and the recreation organizations while having closer communication with the town.

WEBSITE DISCUSSION

Website ideas discussed were:

1. Allow sign up for all sports on one site at one time or anytime.
2. Sign up at the beginning of the calendar year to sign up for the sports offered.
3. Collect fees using credit cards, PayPal or go to Borough Hall with a check.
4. Include a section for volunteers if they are Rutgers and concussion certified.
5. Include the sports that want to be part of the JIF umbrella and add others as they decide
6. The town website should have a link for registration.
7. Use emails for communication.
8. Used as a central location for communication.
9. Field request should be online.

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There was discussion about the old Boosters website. The old booster's site is used for basketball, but the issue is all funds go into one account and someone would need to reconcile the amounts for each sport. Softball was planning to use the booster's site as well for the Spring 2019 season.

The booster's website allowed parents to register for any sport the town offered. The issue is that the money received was put into one account and needed to be reconciled. There was a way to create different bank accounts for each of the sports, but social security numbers and other personal information had to be given, etc. Baseball and softball was interested, but never completed the paperwork

Closter Recreation and the HSA have good websites. The Closter website allows you to register for all sports on one location. The HSA website allows you register once, there are grade specific events, all the emails are stored, etc. Lara suggested to use the same website that the HSA. Lara offered to build in about 2 weeks. HSA uses PayPal. Lynn had done some research when the Booster's website was going to be closed. HP does not allow credit card payments at this time because of the fees. All the vendors must be vet before the creditors can be paid. The option for the parents would be to drop off checks at Borough Hall by a certain date. Blue Sombrero is free. It would be great to register for any other events if needed. HSA pays about \$700/year for their website. Community Pass is expensive to get up and running.

Recreation would like the free website up and running around Feb.1 for baseball and softball registration. The site could be used for the Swim Club as well.

SPORTS DIRECTOR

The HP CFO has secured funds to hire a Sports Director to manage the registration, teams, schedules and field schedules, etc. The sports director would manage the fields, registration, promotion and rent of the fields. This would help with the revenue for maintenance. This person will streamline the sports to know who is using what fields and when. One commissioner allowed a tournament at Pondside without the Recreation Commission approval. The fee to use the field was not given to Harrington Park or field use was not paid for.

SOCCER

Joe said that HP soccer is part of AYSO and was trying to get out of the organization, but the money is with AYSO and it is difficult to take the money out. Fees are collected, part of fee goes to AYSO for insurance; the remaining is used to pay for uniforms and equipment. The equipment belongs to AYSO, but they may not take it away if HP starts another soccer program. This year the soccer teams did not have uniforms. HP collects a fee. Part of the money goes to AYSO for insurance. The rest of the money goes to paying for uniforms, the referee, field maintenance charges, and equipment. Soccer must make decisions whether

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to stay with AYSO. Joe would like soccer to be under the recreation program. The HP soccer organization needs to make a decision if they will forgo the money in the AYSO's account to start with a town team. HP may try to negotiate. The first step is moving away from AYSO.

In other towns, if you play on the travel team, you must play on the Rec team. An example is in Demarest you must play for Demarest Rec to be allowed to play in the club soccer team. There was discussion about how the Rec sports was required before joining club or travels teams. At one point, things changed in HP. Northvale, Norwood and Old Tappan all require town recreation soccer before they can play with NVSC. HP should follow this requirement. Club teams are taking away kids who would play on Rec teams.

Joe said that soccer could use assistance from Rec for field use and dealing with AYSO.

Late registrations cause an issue when organizing teams. This is also because of lack of communication. Joe will talk to the soccer organization. **Lynne will reach out to Rob Jaeger.** Joe will send the registration costs for soccer and basketball.

Northvale soccer pays \$50 registration for full uniform. In HP it costs about \$500 for 3 kids to play rec soccer for a season. It would be the same amount as a private club with professionals instructors. Club teams pay for the fields as well. An organization was hired to train the kids because there were no volunteers to coach.

BASKETBALL

Basketball has a solid system. Joe is the treasurer for basketball, and files to the state and federal government, it has it's own insurance and is a separate entity. He was opposed to Recreation "taking it over". The all basketball is covered under the same insurance. Basketball is not suffering like the other sports. Jon Mangano runs the basketball organization very efficiently and effectively.

Basketball is run like clockwork. The concern is that other town referees wait 6 months to be paid. Jon doesn't want to wait that long. He runs it well, and may not want to be slowed down. The question is what happens when Jon steps down from basketball?

JOINT INSURANCE FUND (JIF) and TRUST ACCOUNT

The sport can be included the town JIF. A trust account could be set up for the sport. Once the sport is an adhoc it becomes part of the town JIF. The swim club has joined recently and there would be benefits such as insurance would be covered and you wouldn't have to worry about it; field use forms would be eliminated. It is not a take over, but there are reasons to have one location to register, insurance coverage without a lapse.

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Recreation wants to make it easier for the residents sign up for sports. We have to make the collective decision. Is it worth for all the sport commissioners to be part of the umbrella? Recreation will hire a recreation director who will be responsible for registration, insurance. Last year softball used the boosters site, and Joe gave Chris checks. Recreation provided helped with providing insurance because the insurance policy was over. All the parents want one location to register.

The checks would be written by the CFO. Other towns have the recreation members or sports commissioners writing checks when needed. Because this is a municipality, all funds need to go through the CFO. Joe would give the referees a check at the beginning of the season. It would be settled at the end of the season.

Each soccer team pays the referees the day of the game. The volunteer coach for the team would get a check from Jessica Torrie. Some parents would give cash at the end of the game. Petty cash could not be used. Sometimes the parent would pay cash and submit an expense to the town. Baseball umpires get \$150/game, clubs are paying \$200 for the field and the kids are paying \$1000 to play on the team.

The logistics of getting the bank account is the issue.

It is easier for the commissioners to have access to the money. If it is streamlined by going through the Recreation Commission, then everyone will be treated equally and there won't be an issue with some families paying or not paying for registration or not volunteering.

HP insurance requires that proper field request must be followed. If the process was not followed then HP is not liable for injuries.

FIELD MAINTENANCE AND FEES

Field maintenance fees were waived for sports that had low registration. Discussion continued about high field maintenance fees, how other towns maintenance is lower or that the DPW does this work in other towns. HP DPW doesn't have a license to spray chemicals. Other towns hire outside companies to spray and fall clean up. It costs about \$50,000 for the chemicals; to line the infield, take care of the clay for baseball. The idea of the maintenance fee is a little help from the people who use the fields.

Lance Symons is good about paying for the field maintenance.

Basketball uses the school gym and doesn't impact the fields.

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The BOE approves the school field usage. Field Pro maintains the 2 out of 3 school fields. The softball organizers assigned the fields.

Club organizations should pay because they are not part of the town and will not treat the fields like residents.

In the past, Recreation was able to get about \$10,000 from field requests and field maintenance contribution from HP sports to help pay for the field maintenance. Recently, the amount had dropped drastically.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

Rec soccer used to be very popular. Baseball fields are in high demand. Sports commissioners are assigned within their organization.

Recreation thanked Joe for his time.

Jon Mangano should be included in the discussion. If he doesn't want basketball want to be included then basketball can join when they are ready. Chris, Mike, Charles, Lynne and Tom will meet over the weekend or during the weekday. This is a larger commitment for Recreation.

7. REORGANIZATION

The members were asked to lead the effort in areas that the Recreation Commission is responsible for.

RESPONSIBILITIES	MEMBER(S)
Finance (Budget)	Charles
Field Requests	Charles
School Coordination	Lynne
Sports Coordination	Charles, Paul
Fishing Derby (Father's Day)	Kelly, Charles, Paul
Town Day	Lynne, Lara, Ashley
Ragamuffin	Kelly, Tom, Ashley
Park and Recreation Maintenance (field maintenance contract, portable bathrooms, bathroom cleanings, lights, water meters, sprinklers, etc.)	Tom, Kelly
Park Monitoring	
- Pondside	Charles
- Highland Field	Lynne
- George Street	Ashley

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- School	Lara
- Beechwood	Charles
- Don Horsey	Ashley
- Columbus	Lara
Tennis	Paul
Lightning Detectors	Kelly
Advertising Signs	Tom, Ashley

8. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

a. Approval of Minutes (December 12, 2018)

Motion: Charles Second: Lynne
Abstain: Tom, Lara, Ashley
All in favor said "Aye". None opposed.

9. UPDATES

a. Finance and Budget

No updates.

b. Field Requests

There was a suggestion on increasing the prices for field use and for weekend use. Club teams pay up to \$250/game in other county parks. This topic was deferred to another time.

A. TGA

Charles approved the clinic. Charles has the authority to approve field request if it is an annual request. The Recreation Commission should vote on any new requests.

B. NJ WILD THINGS

Lynne has a field request and will pass it on to Carolyn and Charles. This organization pays for field use. The request should be more specific on the dates for practice and games (i.e. day of the week)

c. School Coordination

Everything is running smoothly. Lynne coordinates any requests that uses the school gym time such as basketball or indoor soccer.

d. Sports Coordination

e. Town Programs

i. Fishing Derby

– Sunday, June 16, 2019 (noon-2pm) – Father's Day

ii. Town Day

– Saturday, Sept.7, 2019 (noon-4pm), rain date Sept.8, 2019 (1-4pm)

– There were no water slides because it was too cold. Many parents do not like water slides.

iii. Ragamuffin Parade

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- Oct. 26, 2019 (10-11:30am)
- There was discussion about the farmers market and Stokes.

f. Park & Playground Maintenance

i. Field Maintenance

Tom will call Mark about removing the portable potties.

Field Maintenance Bid

- It will be advertised next Tuesday.
- All companies must submit a bid.

ii. Field Condition Updates

This time of year the fields are not in a great condition. Recreation will call DPW and they will clean it up.

The pipes around the basketball courts are disconnected.

Carolyn will call Mark.

g. Tennis

i. Repairs/Reconstruction

The fence is fixed. Kelly met with Ed Stapp and Sons for an estimate to repair the tennis courts. They said Neglia's estimate is accurate. Ed Stapp and Sons had originally done the patching of the courts and estimated that the cracks would start showing after 6-7 years. The patches were still in place and level, but there were new cracks. It would be \$200,000+ to reconstruct the courts. \$100,000 to repair with fencing. The existing poles look good. The cracks are filled with 3 layers of fiberglass then layered with a color coat. The tennis courts do not bring in lot of money. It is an asset to the town and there is a group in town that was part of the tennis associate in the past that have discussed the problems with Recreation. Discussion continued about what projects would be preferred between a Highland Field pavilion or tennis courts reconstruction. There was discussion about raising money to fix the courts through selling tennis photographs or tennis companies (i.e. TGA) being involved.

ii. Tennis Instructor Fee

There is an ordinance for a \$500 instructor fee for the year. This was written when tennis was popular and the tennis association would monitor it. At this time, how do we justify \$500 for using the courts? TGA is paying \$10/person for court usage. Each family is supposed to pay \$25 for a membership, but it has not been enforced.

iii. Tennis Signage

The tennis sign that cut a child's face should be taken down.

iv. Tennis Association

Deferred to next month.

10. PROJECTS

a. Grant Update

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No update on the grant for the pavilion project. It should be announced in January. It is a matching grant where the town would pay 50%. The green space grant for the project submitted. If the project is not done, then it will affect future grants.

11. OTHER ITEMS

a. Trees Behind the School

The trees behind the school along Lynn and Hackensack are falling apart. An arborist looked at it and it is a big project. It is a 4 day job for tree removal and pruning. There was a bid for \$2,000/day for 4 days (\$8,000). Another bid was \$1,875/day. Joon will get at least 3 quotes. Some members suggested Arrow, Ken's Trees and Bergenfield. The school is looking at different ways to secure the property and is working with the Environmental Commission to plant more trees.

b. Bergen Catholic

Bob Muggeo would like to use the fields for Bergen Catholic freshman team. Recreation needs to have the master schedule. Charles will contact Mr. Bianco, Rob Muggeo, Mike Rutigliano, Lance Symons and Chris Apostle to discuss the field schedules. The school is flexible. Rob is willing to pay a flat fee per month and is flexible. Pondsides is one of the only 60x90 fields around in the fall. Bergen Catholic uses Haworth as a back up and pays \$10,000 to Lyndhurst for the season. The schedule must come back to the municipality from the sports commissioners and schedule the fields where we can generate more funds. The issue is rescheduling for rainouts it makes it more complicated for the middle person.

c. Sport Contribution Fees

The finance summary shows fees have reduced from \$10,000 to \$3,000. The main difference is from softball and baseball. The CFO will secure an amount of money for a Recreation Director to manage the schedules.

d. Lightning Detector

There is a contact with the lightning detectors. Carolyn will contact Bryan Jursca for him to negotiate the fee to move the lightning detector to another pole.

e. Newsletter

Softball link for registration is not working. It could be that the registration has not started. Change the advertising to "stay tuned" and not the link.

f. Rutgers Certification

There are fewer volunteers in the community. The volunteer coaches need to be Rutgers certified. There should be training once a year in town. All the volunteer coaches are trained in soccer. Most if not all the coaches for basketball are Rutgers trained

Recreation will organize a training session in town for Saturday, March 2, 2019 (9am-1pm) at Borough Hall. The cost is still to be determined. Lara paid \$30 for her training. Fingerprints and background checks are not required at this time. Lara will provide Carolyn the instructor contact information.

Vote to have the Rutgers Clinic at Borough Hall on March 2, 2019 (9am-1pm)

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Motion: Charles Second: Tom
All in favor said "Aye". None opposed.

g. TGA Multi-sport camps

The Von Tobels still organize the summer camp at the school. This is the reason why it wasn't approved last year. The Soccer Camp would be in competition with the TGA Spring Camp. Tennis camp may not take kids away from soccer. Spring Tennis Camp would be fine, but not the Multi-sport Camp in the summer. Field requests are still need.

h. George Street Playground

The equipment needs to be cleaned off. Ashley will call Mark.

i. Advertising Signs

Deferred until next month.

j. Turfing Fields

Deferred until next month.

12. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 10:36pm.

NEXT MEETING

Next regularly scheduled meeting is Feb. 20, 2019 at 8pm.